

# Virtual Machines: Working From Home

## Home machines

Virtual machines for use with VMware Player on students' home machines have been created. Students can download the file here:

[https://www.cs.umn.edu/cs\\_files/virtual-machines/cs5271-VMs.zip](https://www.cs.umn.edu/cs_files/virtual-machines/cs5271-VMs.zip)

Students will need to download VMware Player from

<http://www.vmware.com/download/player>

If they run a Debian-based Linux distribution, like Feisty Ubuntu, they can install the `vmware-player` package via Synaptic ('`sudo synaptic`'). The VM will work in both Windows and Linux. Note that we provide zero support for users running VMs on their home machines and a moderate level of computer expertise is required to get them working. The student's computer will need at least 1GB of RAM and 6GB of hard drive space, but more of both is better. The file is about 1.6GB to download. I'll provide free DVD-R burns to students that want them. You can use me ([lthomas@cs.umn.edu](mailto:lthomas@cs.umn.edu)) as the contact for those requests. They can expect a one business day turn-around.

## Remote Access

Assume your client name is `itclus11.itlabs.umn.edu`. Even with the correct hostname, you won't be able to directly interface with the VMware Server console software from home; there's simply too much bandwidth required for the uncompressed video signal used with the software to feasibly work outside of the local ITLabs network. However, the next time you're in the building, you can start up your virtual machines, then simply close the console software. Your VMs will continue to run in the background and you'll be able to SSH into them after SSH'ing to `itclus11.itlabs`. This will work with text-based software. If you enable X forwarding as described in

<http://www.itlabs.umn.edu/help/offsite/graphical.php>

and add an `'-XY'` flag to the SSH command to connect to your VM, you may be able to run graphical programs as well, but even that could be dreadfully slow, depending on your internet connection.